

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A proposal submitted by the Government of U.P. for system improvement scheme at Moradabad has already been approved under the 'Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme' in which Central Government's contribution is of Rs. 8 crores. The total project is estimated to be Rs. 12.41 crores. The project is to be executed by the U.P. State Electricity Board for which the State Govt. has already formed a Committee to oversee the implementation. On the basis of the proposal received from the Government of U.P., the Ministry of Commerce has also approved the establishment of Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Surajpur-Kasna, District Ghaziabad. The Park is under development.

[English]

Indo-Russian Talk on Direct Taxes

1267. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the fourth round of Indo-Russian talks on direct tax issues held in Moscow in October last; and

(b) the efforts made by India in to ensure that a treaty is emerged out of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The fourth round of Indo-Russian talks was held in Moscow from 15th to 18th October, 1996 for finalisation of a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and the Russian Federation. The talks were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere and certain issues which required further consideration were discussed and settled amicably during this final round of negotiations. The Agreement has thus been initialed at the official level as a result of the said discussions and further steps are being taken for its formal signing soon.

Rubber Plantation in Non-Traditional Areas

1268. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage plantation particularly rubber plantation in the non-traditional areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total area of land proposed to be covered under this scheme; and

(c) the total fund allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Details of schemes to encourage plantations including rubber plantations in the non-traditional areas

Rubber :

During 1995-96 an area of 2092.13 hectare was planted in the non-traditional areas and during 1996-97, the target is 3570 hectare. Rubber Board is implementing the following schemes for the development of rubber plantations in the non-traditional areas.

(1) Rubber Plantation Development Scheme provides a financial assistance of Rs. 8,000 per ha and reimbursement of Planting material at Rs. 3,000 per ha. For SC/ST categories, the reimbursement is at Rs. 4,000 per ha.

(2) Boundary protection scheme provides assistance at Rs. 1,500 per ha. For SC/ST categories, it is Rs. 4,000 per ha.

(3) Supply of fertilizers at 50% subsidised cost during the first four years of planting to SC/ST growers.

(4) Assistance for irrigation at Rs. 5,000 per ha.

(5) Assistance for setting up community processing centre.

(6) Other schemes, such as distribution of planting materials, block plantation for tribals and SC training, setting up demonstration plots, setting up District Development Centres for imparting training to growers and other personnel involved in plantation management. In Tripura, a Tribal Development Plan is implemented with the assistance of the Govt. of Tripura and World Bank.

The amount spent on the development of rubber plantation in the non-traditional regions during the last three years are as under :

1993-94	Rs. 570.26 lakh
1994-95	Rs. 592.84 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 620.97 lakh

Coffee :

Several specific Plan and Non-Plan Projects are being operated in the Non-traditional areas during the VIII Plan period with an objective to provide Extension,